

OCTOBER * 1971 * 35¢

Bucks County

NEW CAR ISSUE

PANORAMA

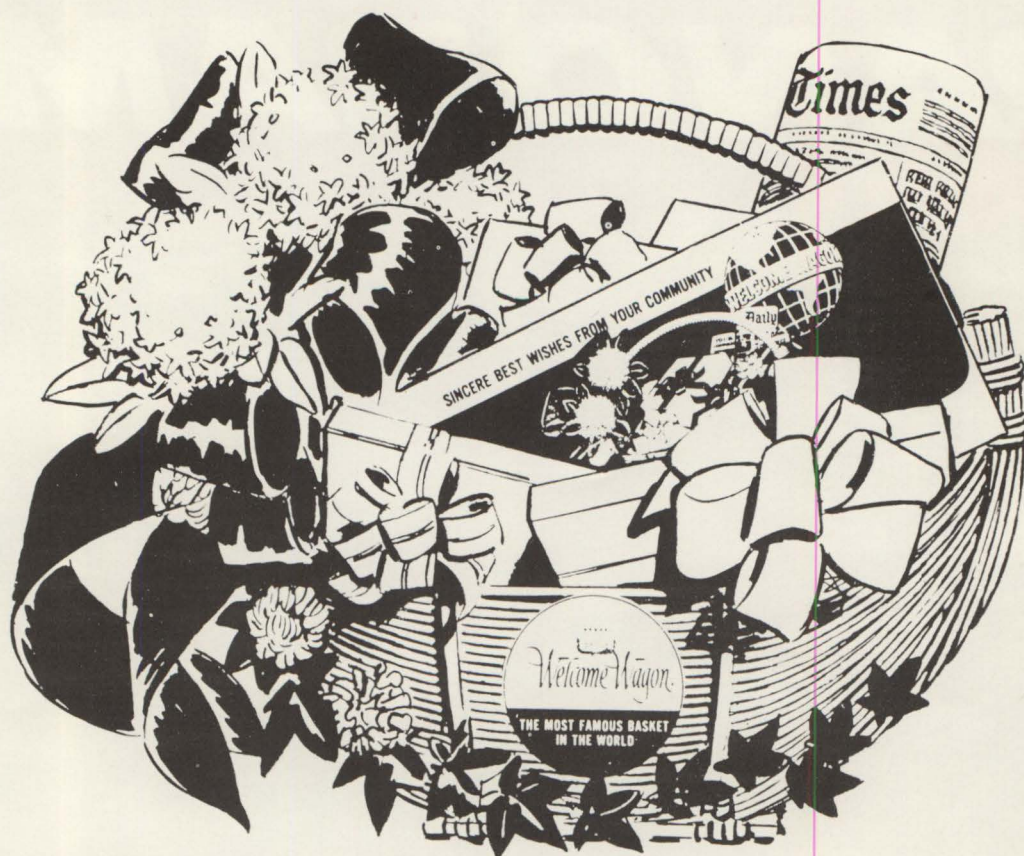


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Bucks County PANORAMA

— The Magazine of Bucks County —

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COVER: Artist Roger Clough's painting of the Robertson Grist Mill built in the 1750's located at the mouth of the Wissahickon Creek.

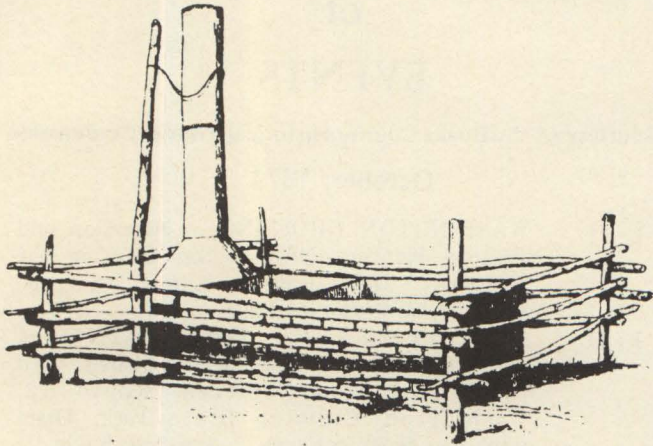
CALENDAR of EVENTS

Courtesy of the Bucks County Historical-Tourist Commission

October, 1971

- 1 - 31 WASHINGTON CROSSING — Narration and Famous Painting, "Washington Crossing the Delaware," Daily 9:30 to 5 p.m. Memorial Building, at ½ hour intervals.
- 1 - 31 WASHINGTON CROSSING — Thompson-Neely House furnished with pre-Revolutionary pieces, Route 32, Washington Crossing State Park. Open weekdays 9:30 to 5 p.m., Sun. 1 to 5 p.m.
- 1 - 31 WASHINGTON CROSSING — Old Ferry Inn, Route 532 at the bridge. Restored Revolutionary furniture, gift and snack shop where Washington Punch is sold. Open daily 9:30 to 5 p.m.
- 1 - 31 WASHINGTON CROSSING — Taylor House, built in 1812 by Mahlon K. Taylor, now serves as headquarters for the Washington Crossing Park Commission. Open to public Weekdays 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sat. 8:30 to 11 a.m.
- 1 - 31 MORRISVILLE — Pennsbury Manor, the re-created Country Estate of William Penn. Original Manor House was built in 1683. Open daily 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sun. 1 to 5 p.m. Admission 50 cents.
- 1 - 31 FALLSINGTON — Burges-Lippincott House, 18th Century Architecture. Open to the public Wed. thru Sun., including holidays, 1 to 5 p.m. Admission: Adults 50 cents, students 25 cents, children under 12 free if accompanied by an adult.
- 1 - 31 BRISTOL — The Margaret R. Grundy Memorial Museum, 610 Radcliffe St., Victorian decor. Hours: Tues., Thurs., and Sat. 1 - 3 p.m., other times by appointment.
- 1 - 31 PINEVILLE — Wilmar Lapidary Art Museum. The country's largest private collection of hand-carved semi-precious stones. Open to the public Tues. thru Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sun. 1 to 5 p.m. Admission: 50 cents.
- 1 - 31 DOYLESTOWN — Mercer Museum, Pine and Ashland Streets. Hours: Sun. 1 to 5 p.m., Tues. thru Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Monday. LIBRARY OF THE SOCIETY — Tues. thru Fri. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Wed. 1 to 2 p.m. Admission — Adults: \$1 and children under 12 — 50 cents.

(continued on page 13)



SOUTHERN SYRUP MAKING MACHINERY

Henry Glassie, *Pattern in the Material Folk Culture of the Eastern United States* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1968), p. 108.

LONG SWEETNIN'

by Cora B. Decker

It seems that I am always reading about how they make maple sugar in New England. Sugaring off is an interesting process, and maple syrup is certainly good. But I wonder why no one has written with equal enthusiasm about making molasses from sugar cane? I don't mean that strong, heavy Black Strap, or sorghum molasses. I am thinking of real sugar cane syrup, made from the best quality of sugar cane. It is a rich, golden color, not much thicker than maple syrup, and the delicate flavor is unique and unforgettable.

George MacReynolds in *Place Names in Bucks County* says: "For a few years preceding, during and immediately after the Civil War, sugar, molasses and other staples produced in the South became scarce and very high priced in the North. Revenue runners brought some through, but the shortage was acute." This fact induced some Bucks County farmers to experiment in raising sugar cane, and they found that it could be successfully, but not luxuriantly grown in rich soil. To extract the juice from the cane, from

which sugar, molasses and rum could be made, required a mill similar to the old fashioned cider mills.

Two fine examples of cider mills are preserved in the Mercer Museum, but so far as is known, not a single example of a Bucks County sorghum or cane mill survives today. These mills were operated by horse power, with a few exceptions when the power was steam. Among the known sorghum mills in Bucks County was one on Benjamin Wiggins' farm near Jericho Mountain in northwest Upper Makefield Township. There were others in Holicong, and in Plumstead Township. One at Yardley was in operation as late as 1868, and quite a large one in Buckingham Township near Forest Grove. Still another was located on Sugar Bottom Road. It was on or near the bottom land so that people were obliged to go to the foot of the hill for sugar and molasses — hence the name Sugar Bottom. That sugar cane can be raised there is proven by the fact that Jean Hudson raised some there in 1940. He ate the

cane raw. His people came from the South and he obtained the seed from them.

In Henry Glassie's *Pattern in the Material Fold Culture of the Eastern United States* he says: "Whether made from sugar cane or sorghum, syrup is manufactured in the same way, with the same devices, on small farms throughout the South. The butt ends of the cane are fed into the syrup mill powered by a mule walking in a slow circle. The juice pressed out of the cane is caught in a tub, poured into a pan over a wood fire, boiled down to syrup, strained through a cloth, and put up in jars or cans." This is essentially the method that I remember.

When we were children living in southern Mississippi during the first decade of this century, we waited eagerly for the sugar cane season. Suddenly, one day in October, a barrel of tall, purple sugar cane stalks would appear on the gallery of the store. I remember three varieties; the reddish purple kind with tall, slender stalks, the white cane, and the ribbon cane, which must have been a hybrid of the other two. It was striped, purple and white, and was the sweetest of all. The stalks grew about six to eight feet tall, and were jointed like a bamboo pole. A standing cane brake looked not unlike a field of corn. It thrived in the subtropical climate of southern Mississippi and Louisiana.

When the sugar cane barrel appeared at the store we would gleefully select the longest, thickest stalks to drag home. I think they were three for a nickel, but since it was the Company Store Mr. Kays just "put it in the book", so I am a little vague about prices.

When we got home with our cane we would look for Van. Cooks, nurses, second girls and yard boys came and went but old Van went on forever. He was big and black and could, and did do anything that needed doing, and we loved him. Now the sugar cane needed peeling, so we sought Van. Like as not, he would be splitting kindling down by the wood pile.

Ginger and I, with little Jane tagging along behind, would rush around to the back yard, where Van would dispose of his hatchet and sit down on the chopping block. He would carefully wipe off his big pocket knife (the same knife he used to cut his plug tobacco, I am afraid). We gathered around him and settled down to the serious business of chewing sugar cane. First the dry thin top joints were discarded. Then he would delicately run his knife around just above the next joint, almost — but not quite — cutting the stalk through. He carefully stripped off the skin and split the cane into four parts. He passed the stalk to each of us, and we would break off our

fourth and start chewing. The remaining fourth Van would stick in his mouth like a cigar to chew as he started peeling the next section. We held ours at one end and chewed the fibrous stalk half way down, and then turned it around and chewed from the other end until we met in the center, throwing away the dry fiber. Some juice ran down our eager throats, but I expect more ran down our chins and wrists. It was the essence of sweetness with just enough tang from the fibrous stalk to avoid cloying. Joint after joint we devoured the canes down to the last nubbin, leaving a pile of dry, chewed fiber before each of us. No candy has ever equaled this nectar for me. It has been over half a century since I have tasted it, but I still drool at the memory. I wonder how it would taste now?

When we went into the house, nurse was cross because we were so dirty and sticky and had spoiled our appetites. But our teeth were white and shining from chewing the tough and succulent cane.

Not long after the sugar cane started coming in Father would announce, when he came home from the mill at noon, that Mr. Brown was making molasses, and if we wanted to go out to the farm and bring home a few jugs, he would send the surrey around for us that afternoon. Ginger and Jane and I would set out with Nurse to watch Mr. Brown make molasses and bring home the winter supply of "long sweetnin". That was what the lumber men and country people called it. They seldom had sugar for their coffee, but sweetened it with molasses. They also used it on their biscuits, pancakes and corn pones. Country people always referred to molasses in the plural. "Please pass them molasses", was the polite phrase, but usually it was simply, "Pass the long sweetnin".

One reason it is so hard to find real cane syrup on the market may be its tendency to crystallize. Long before the jugs were empty in the spring, wonderful rock candy formed in the containers. It was much better than the kind you got at the store on a string, because it had the added flavor of molasses. Mr. Brown made the best syrup anywhere around, but since I was only about ten years old at the time I cannot promise a technically accurate description of the process, but this is the way I remember it.

As we approached the mill in Mr. Brown's back yard we passed the cane patch where men were cutting the cane and stripping it of its leaves, loading it on a wagon to be hauled up to the press. This machine resembled nothing so much as an outsized clothes wringer. The canes were fed into it on one side and emerged crushed and dry on the other. The

(continued on page 24)



Moon-Williamson House during restoration

DOCUMENT OF HISTORY

by Clare Nelson

On Saturday, October 9th, Fallsington Day will be 17 years old.

To celebrate the event, one of the oldest and most historic buildings in Fallsington will be ready to receive visitors. It is the Moon-Williamson House, of log construction, dated by the restoration architect as of 1685. Corroborating evidence of its age comes from tree experts, who have measured the two ancient sycamores planted in front of the house and estimate them as being 300 years old.

Of special interest to lovers of history is the fact that this early structure is "in situ", meaning that it has never been moved from its original foundation. Thus, as the visitor contemplates the complete restoration . . . a pioneer log cabin with its pair of bridal trees . . . he can catch a glimpse of Young America as the first settlers saw it. He is looking at "A Document of History".

Historic Fallsington, Inc., acquired the building in 1967 and is naming it for two of the families who occupied it in the two previous centuries. Nothing is known of the original builder except that he was probably Swedish, since the corner fireplace and the Swedish bricks used in the adjoining section offer this evidence. It is a fact of history that the Swedes introduced the log cabin idea to the New World. For

Sweden was the country which contained similar forests, and its people had worked out the best methods of notching logs together without using nails. This type of construction was quickly picked up by the British and Dutch, who used it for their own settlements. Eventually, their descendants made it an American symbol, building a trail of log cabins as they made their way across the Western plains to the Pacific coast.

For its first name, Historic Fallsington is honoring Samuel Moon, member of a large and flourishing family of that name, who lived in the log house during the 18th century. History records that he made furniture, but was particularly well known as a "joyner", or chair maker, specializing in Windsors. One of his chairs, surprisingly delicate, is now on view in the dining room of the Burges-Lippincott House — an authentic link with the thriving village of early Fallsington.

Williamson is also a well-known local name, as a large wall chart on exhibit in the Stagecoach Tavern, can testify. There, twelve generations of the family are chronicled, starting with "Dunk Williams" (Duncan Williamson), who ran a ferry across the Delaware below Trenton in the 1670's. During the 19th century, there were actually two Williamsons to

achieve distinction, Josiah and Mary, so both are included in the family representation of those who occupied the historic log structure.

Josiah's life story reads like the success novels so popular at the turn of the century. "Farm Boy Makes Good In The Big City", might well be the title. Actually, the scenario should stress hard work and pluck, for Josiah Williamson set out to learn his trade at the age of 15.

At that time, he apprenticed himself to the store keeper at the Gillingham Store, which was the center of a flourishing farm community. Here the farmers brought their produce and traded it for such products as they needed . . . tea, coffee, farm implements, etc. Trade, rather than money, was the means of exchange, and the cross-roads store served the community as its economic center. Farm produce was shipped down the Delaware and sold in Philadelphia.

Eventually, Josiah went to the big city and succeeded so well that his name and fortune continue to serve his fellow men to this day. Since he never married, he left his money to found a most needed and practical institution . . . The Williamson School of Mechanical Trades. This remains very much a going concern located just outside Philadelphia in Media.

Mary Williamson, a cousin, who lived in the latter part of the 19th century, was also concerned with the welfare of the people of her time, particularly women. It was she who brought young orphaned girls out to Fallsington from Philadelphia for the summer, providing the nucleus for the organization known as the "Girls' Friendly Society". An ardent Episcopalian, she was accustomed to dress in the manner of an Episcopal nun. And, since there was no church of that denomination in Fallsington for her girls to attend, she commissioned one to be built, in 1876.

Today, greatly expanded, with its own Vicar's residence and parish house, it is the All Saints Episcopal Church of Fallsington. In the basement chapel may be seen the original altar and pews of "Miss Mary's church".

Restoration of the Moon-Williamson House has been under the direction of Philadelphia architect G. Edwin Brumbaugh, noted authority on early American architecture. He has rated the structure as, "one of the most important and one of the earliest pioneer cabins surviving in Pennsylvania".

The original log house was a one-story and attic building. Inside, the walls were whitewashed, and a partition divided the space into what was called "the hall", or living room, and "the lower room", used as a

bedroom. It is in this room that the Swedish corner fireplace is located. A large cooking fireplace, with a heavy wooden lintel, takes up the entire wall space at the east end of the living room. All inside beams are exposed.

Outside, the sheathing has been removed exposing the original logs, whose notched joinings, can be seen at the corners of the structure. It was found impractical to attempt to replace the type of material originally used to bind the logs together, which was composed of a mixture of lime, mud, and animal hair. Instead, modern cement holds the ancient beams in place, and a clear modern finish preserves them.

"Spanish Brown" was the name of the color used on early exteriors. Made from iron-bearing stone, it was heated and crushed into powder for use as outdoor paint. This same dull, red-earth tone has been applied to the door and window frames as well as to the shutters.

Within a few years, probably in the 1670's, a second section was added to the log building, making an east wing. This proves to be a fine example of



Participants in Colonial Musket Drill

what the English called, a "fair, framed house", made of timber and Swedish brick. Actually, it could have been an abandoned house moved from somewhere in the area against the original log cabin, according to the architect's studies.

This section is sheathed outside with "lock-joint"

(continued on page 34)



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Ewald's serves delicious home-cooked food and pastries in the charming Durham Room. The stained glass wall separating the Durham Room from the Cocktail Lounge is most interesting. It was done by Richard Smith of Kintnersville.

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Chief Naturalist Harry Volker leading nature walk

AUTUMN GLORY

by Charlotte Andersen

It's autumn! Your senses would tell you if the calendar didn't — by the bright blue brilliance of the sky they would know; by the head-clearing, almost painful purity of the air; and by the pungent, smoky smell of the wind. It's the time of year when you feel like seeking out the woods and the fields to experience their unparalleled pageant of color before it's too late. You can't spare the time to go to Canada, or New England, or even the Poconos, but you feel certain there must be equally gorgeous displays closer to home, if only you knew where. There are — right here in Bucks County.

Imagine a recently cleared opening in an ancient grove of hemlocks, row upon row of newly dug graves, each mound surmounted by a plain wooden cross, and each cross carved with a single name. The names are those of wildlife species — birds, mammals, and reptiles, such as the bald eagle, the tiger, and the alligator — some followed by a question mark because

endangered, others followed by the date the species became extinct because of man's heedlessness and lack of foresight. At the head of the graveyard is a larger cross, bearing one word in large block letters followed by a question mark — MAN?

This thought-provoking and somewhat frightening exhibit is only one of many surprises which await you if you are one of those who still think a nature center is a place where birds and wildflowers are preserved so that little old ladies with clumpy shoes, back packs, and field glasses may observe them unmolested. It is to be found at the Bucks County Nature and Outdoor Education Center at Churchville, Pa., where education is only one of the many services rendered by its staff of trained naturalists and volunteers, not just for Bucks County residents but for state and nation as well.

What are these services, and how do they benefit you and your family? First of all, in addition to their

chief role as educators, the staff members at the Center like to mention their job of conservation. Any natural preserve which prohibits visitors from cutting or destroying plants and other wildlife while maintaining and encouraging survival of all species



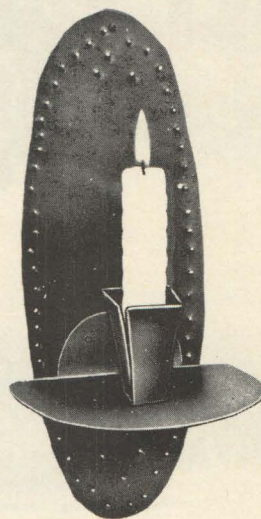
*Sunday afternoon program led by naturalist
Julian Boryszewski*

and cooperating with the U. S. Department of the Interior will automatically contribute to conservation. With 25 acres owned by Bucks County plus the 36 acres leased from the Philadelphia Suburban Water Company, whose Springfield Lake (sometimes known as Churchville Pond) borders the Center on the northwest, this one is no exception. In addition, however, through its work with Boy and Girl Scout troops, who construct check dams, clear trails, and cover trails with chips or edge them with marking rails, in fulfillment of conservation merit badges, the Center assures that conservation practices will be carried on by a new generation.

Through these and related activities the Center also contributes to ecological balance in many ways. It is a haven for migrating waterfowl; no spraying of any kind is allowed; there are few, if any, mosquitos on the pond — just enough to furnish food for the fish, frogs, and raccoons who live there; the gypsy moth, which has created such havoc in most wooded areas of the County, is in check and virtually non-existent here. All the ecological communities indigenous to Bucks County — woodland, field, stream, lake, pond, and swamp — are found here and, together with the pine forest planted in the watershed area by the Philadelphia Suburban Water Company, provide an ideal workshop for the study of ecology by Scouts, nature clubs, school classes, and teachers.

Environmental improvement is bound to result from such activities, but the Center is also helping this along through such programs as re-cycling, accomplished entirely by volunteers on the second

(continued on page 20)



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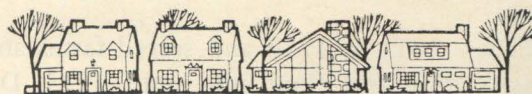
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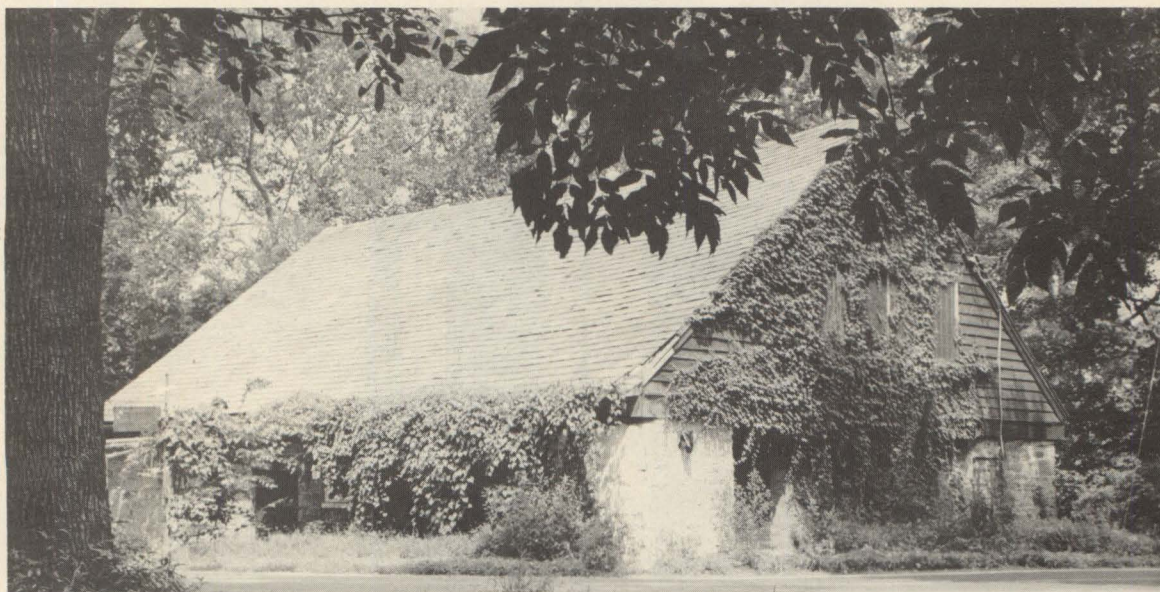
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phillips mill

by Hazel Gover

Some say the fall days are the golden days for visitors coming to New Hope. The summer rush is over, automobiles can move at a reasonable pace, drivers keep their eyes on the traffic and not on the passing sidewalk show. There is elbow room on the streets, in the shops, and restaurants. It is also the time for the Art Exhibition at Phillips Mill, north of New Hope, on the River Road, an event anticipated by art lovers far and near. The Exhibition runs until October 24.

The mill was built in 1756 and served farms and families as a grist and flour mill until 1913. Dr. George Morley Marshall, an eye, ear and nose man from Philadelphia, who had purchased it in 1894, finally found it no longer a profitable business.

Dr. Marshall bought the mill in 1894 and made his home in what is known as "the bulb place." When he closed the building as a mill, he turned it over to the neighborhood people for fun and games, first clearing out the equipment, some of which ended in the Mercer Museum, and Bucks County Historical Society. The rest formed a trash pile in back of the mill, not an unusual disposal plan in the days before ecology became a formidable word in our everyday vocabulary. Once, Thomas Marshall, son of George, was rummaging around and found interesting odds

and ends which had escaped weather, fire, and floods. Quick to think of raising money for the maintenance of the mill, he held an auction. It was a money-making bash. Two pulley wheels ended up as sturdy stools, one in the Marshall home and the other in Ruth Folinsbee's living room.

Not all the relics of the mill met such a pleasant fate. Mrs. Maroney who lived at Center Bridge had the task of keeping the mill tidy for \$1.00 per day. She took out to the trash pile some old account books with which the children had been playing. If the books had survived, they would have been a valued source in tracing old families and their business transactions.

The Phillips Mill Community Association was formed in 1929 to preserve the old building and to "continue interest in Art, Music, Drama, and a general good time for the benefit of all its members."

First there were charades, one-act plays, forums for serious discussions, and musical evenings. About 1950, various talented members began writing their own "operettas" and these ranged from the sweet and sentimental to the bawdy, reducing the men to belly laughs and the women to wiping tears from their

(continued on page 16)



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(CALENDAR cont. from page 3)

- 1 - 31 DOYLESTOWN — Moravian Pottery and Tile Works, Swamp Road (Route 313) north of Court Street. Sun. Noon to 5 p.m., and Wed. thru Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission: \$1 adults, Children 25 cents. Group rates.
- 1 - 31 DOYLESTOWN — National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa Ferry Rd. Guided tours — Sun. 2 p.m., other tours upon request by reservations phone 345-0600. Shrine Religious Gift Shop open 7 days a week 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- 1 - 31 TELFORD — Lockwood Galleries, 345 Church Road. Paintings, sculpture, pottery and weaving exhibits. Hours: Evenings 6 to 10 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- 1 - 31 PIPERSVILLE — Stover Myers Mill, Dark Hollow Road, 1 mile north of Pipersville. 1 to 5 p.m. Admission — 50 cents for adults, 25 cents for children under 12. \$1.00 for families.
- 1 - 31 ERWINNA — John Stover House in Tinicum Township — Open weekends only 1 to 5 p.m. Admission 50 cents for adults, 25 cents for children under 12. \$1.00 for families.
- 1 - 31 NEW HOPE — New Hope and Ivyland Railroad, scenic trips through Bucks County on vintage train, 14 mile round trip. WEEKENDS ONLY. Schedules are available.
- 1 - 31 DURHAM — Durham Mill open weekends only, crafts for display and for sale. See Mill in operation and watch a slide program.
- 1 - 31 CHURCHVILLE — The Outdoor Education Center, Churchville County Park. Open daily 9 to 5 p.m., Sunday 2 to 5 p.m. Family Nature Programs — 2:30 p.m. Sundays.
- 1 - 31 NEW HOPE — Annual Fall Art Exhibit at Phillips Mill, River Road, 1 to 2 miles north of New Hope. Daily and Sun. 1 to 5 p.m.
- 2 RICHLANDTOWN — Christmas Bazaar sponsored by the Richland Historical Society (One-Room School).
- 2 WASHINGTON CROSSING — 3rd Annual Antiques Auction and Art Exhibit 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Old Ferry Inn, Routes 32 and 532. Benefit Washington Crossing Foundation.
- 2 WASHINGTON CROSSING — Children's Nature Walk, Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve Headquarters Building. 10 a.m. to 12 noon.
- 3 WASHINGTON CROSSING — Adult Nature Hike, Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve Headquarters Building. 2 to 3 p.m.
- 1 - 17 NEW HOPE — Bucks County Playhouse presents "Zing," by George Haixson and John Aman, a World Premiere. Curtain 8:30 p.m., except Sun. at 6 p.m. Matinees on Wed. and Sat. at 2 p.m. Schedules for Summer-Fall Season and ticket information please write the Playhouse, New Hope, Pa. 18938. Phone 862-2041.
- 9 FALLSINGTON — Annual Open House Day — 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Open Houses, sales, auction, luncheon, snack bar, Tickets available 295-6567. Special event — opening of the Williamson House for tours, recently restored.
- 9,10,16, 17,23,24, 30,31 TINICUM — Stover Mill Exhibition. Drawings and Paintings by John Schoenherr.

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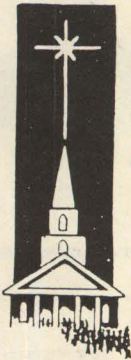
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Rambling with Russ

by

A. Russell Thomas

DOWN MEMORY LANE WITH RUSS

HONEYMOONING — Forty-eight years ago we were honeymooning at Skyland, Virginia. Needless to say, it was a very enjoyable trip. The newlyweds made but one mistake in that trip and it was a bit embarrassing, as I recall.

The cabin atop that beautiful mountain was rented for two weeks. We thought it would be nice to pay the first week so this scribe walked over to the mountain-top headquarters where the cabineers are and paid their bills. The first week was so enjoyable, above the clouds, that I thought it would be nice to pay half the \$90 assessment. Then came the blow that killed the newlyweds. The ninety bucks was for ONE week not TWO.

Reporting back to the cabin and breaking the news to the nicest bride in the world, we talked things over. There was only one decision to make. Beat it back to Lansdale from whence we came. We had the return railroad ticket, a jug of moonshine, a trunk and a few (very few) dollars in our pockets. The trip up the mountain from the Luray railroad station 48 years ago cost \$20 by mule team. When we paid over the \$90 to the owner of the mountain-top honeymoon resort, a fellow named Pollock, I remember distinctly what I said to him. It was something like this: "Mr. Pollock, we are sorry but we must leave a week earlier because of a situation which is beyond our control. All that I would like to know is will it cost \$20 to get back to the Luray railroad station. If so, I'm afraid we will have to stay here and go native."

So the newlyweds hot-footed back to Lansdale. We saw a performance of Barnum & Bailey's circus in Philly and spent the second week of the honeymoon with Mother Thomas in Lansdale, practically "broke"

but happy. Our first month's rent in our first Doylestown home on Shewell avenue had been paid in advance to the late Horace M. Mann. That was about the most businesslike bit of business this reporter transacted on that honeymoon jaunt.

Our first post-marriage job was free lancing for several metropolitan newspapers. Headquarters was a desk in the office of Attorney Arthur M. Eastburn, East Court Street, Doylestown. There we wrote about a lot of things, including politics. At that particular time, I was handling the publicity for a Republican candidate for Congress, and at the same time, was being paid space rate for the Philadelphia Record, one of the best Democrat newspapers ever published. The Record city editor gave me an assignment to write something about the Democratic candidate for Congress, and I did.

That was it! The owner of The Daily Intelligencer (Doylestown) quickly telephoned his editor with a message something like this: "You had better hire that Thomas, give him a job reporting for us. We don't like his articles in the Record, it is hurting our cause. Give him a job and that may keep him quiet" And that's how we hooked up with a newspaper that gave this reporter many happy days of employment.

* * *

THE GWYNEDD Wreck: The Philadelphia Local left Doylestown on time on Saturday, Nov. 21, 1903, at 10:25 p.m. The train composed of three passenger coaches and one baggage car, was on time at 10:56 p.m. at the Gwynedd station. The train was in charge of Conductor Charles Knight.

When the train arrived at the stone arch bridge spanning the Wissahickon Creek, 300 yards below Gwynedd station, the engine suddenly left the track in a deliberately planned attempt at train wrecking which resulted in the loss of two lives and injury to 18 persons. Engineer Edward McCourt was firing and Harry Rodrock was at the throttle. Both were Doylestownians. Rodrock applied the air brakes but almost instantly the iron monster went plunging down the steep embankment in a meadow. The first car was a passenger coach containing 16 people. This broke loose from the rest of the train and went dashing over the embankment also. The car and engine rolled over and over in their descent and the passenger coach landed in the creek.

The wreck was caused by the removal of one of the fish plates binding the outside rail of the south-bound track of the Philadelphia & Reading Railroad and misplacing the rail.

Fireman H. L. Rodrock, of Doylestown and a
(continued on page 31)



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(MILL cont. from page 12)

faces. While these musicals have been sell-outs, no talent scout from Broadway has ever sat in the back row.

The walls of this old grist mill have heard more laughter than any other building in Bucks County. For years during the milling days, it was used as a place where men could meet, discuss the latest political news and exchange gossip on what was happening locally. When the mill closed, children in the neighborhood used it as a playhouse, young people danced to records on a "victrola" to which was finally attached a loud speaker, a big step forward in those days. Adults hired a pianist to make music and during the war days, there were two saucers on the piano, one for the pianist and the other for Red Cross.

Now dances are square or hot with a group on the stage fiddling their hearts out or rocking and rolling with an occasional fast polka thrown in to separate the men from the boys. There are members with fine voices who sing with joyous abandon on many occasions, especially when the members get together to sing Christmas carols and enjoy a little holiday cheer.

One feature which has been carried on since the mill became a community center has been the covered dish suppers. It is Morris Pratt and his wife, Elza, who keep things moving smoothly. Considering the different temperaments, ages, and backgrounds of the members — this is a rare accomplishment. Mrs. Pratt's father and mother had this responsibility until Morris took over when he returned from serving in World War II.

The old minutes of the Association indicate that worry over what the State Department's intentions were with reference to the River Road started back in 1929. The threat of earth-moving machines advancing from the horizon aimed at straightening out the curving River Road, with the 18th Century mill as their prime target has clutched at the heart of many members. So far nothing has happened and it is hoped there will be enough angry voices raised to prevent this useful and delightful remnant of old days from being crushed under the so-called wheels of progress.

The Art Exhibitions in the Mill have been part of the community life around New Hope since 1929 and the one this year will be the 42nd. Dr. Marshall had what we now call charisma. He had a hand in attracting some of the greats in the art of the late 1800's and early 1900's. To name a few — William Lathrop, Edward Redfield, Daniel Garber, Jack

Folinsbee, Harry (Tony) Leith-Ross were among the original group, all nationally known. They settled near the mill and in turn attracted many others who came to learn or just to be within watching distance. "Sunshine," the Lathrop boat, and Mr. Shaddlinger's horse and buggy met students and visitors to the famed "artists' colony." Mrs. Lathrop became well-known for her Sunday afternoons when she dispensed home-made bread and jams, laced with real country butter.

In those early days folks came to New Hope, not to look at each other or to shop-crawl, but to see if by chance they could come upon an artist at work and often they did which entitled them to name-drop.

Originally the Art Exhibition was about as "local" as it could be. It was not until 1938 that the Board of Directors of the Association gave permission to admit three artists other than the original group. The Art Committee was sternly admonished to use tact as well as discretion in selecting the privileged three. Once the wall was breached, artists from an area within a radius of 25 miles of the mill were invited to submit paintings, graphics, and sculptures for possible selection. Shows then were not juried and acrimonious words were flung about as the Art Committee made its selections.

Today the hopeful exhibitors shower the mill with at least five hundred of their finest. It is the task of a jury composed of experienced and knowledgeable men and women to select what will be exhibited and to make the awards. Usually there are ten awards and at least \$750 to be distributed.

Some exhibitors felt a little put down when they discovered their "treasure" displayed in the lower room. Members of the Phillips Mill dug down in their own pockets and authorized a luxurious wall-to-wall carpet, a definite improvement to the appearance and atmosphere of this once unfavored display quarters.

Ranulph Bye, an artist of no mean repute, has the rather questionable honor of hanging the show after the decisions of the jury. There is a reception and preview for members and their guests along with the lucky exhibitors. There is a rush and a crush to see what has been hung and where the brass award tags have been pasted. There is a hub-bub of sound and the endless discussions as to "Now, I ask you, how come THAT one?"

The Exhibition lasts four weeks from September 24 to Oct. 24 and is open from 1 to 5 p.m., seven days a week, with Olga Drury and her faithful committee members, cheering each sale as enthusiastically as a home-run in the baseball field.



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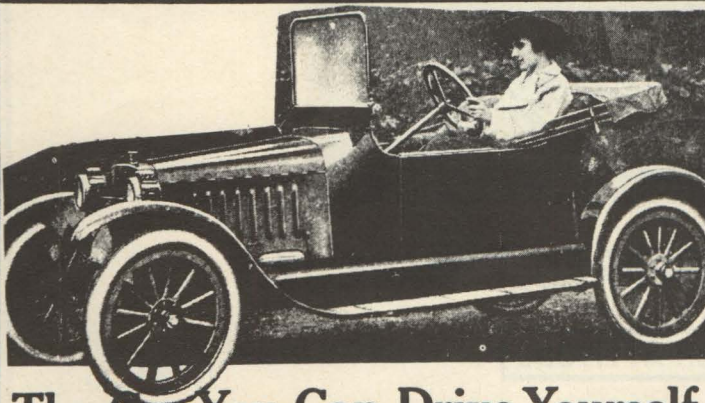
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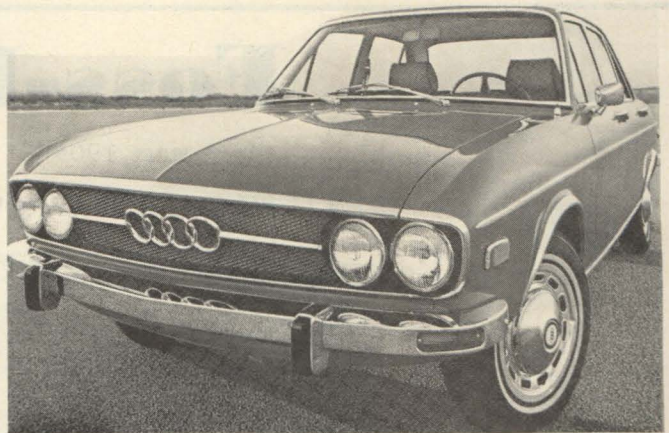
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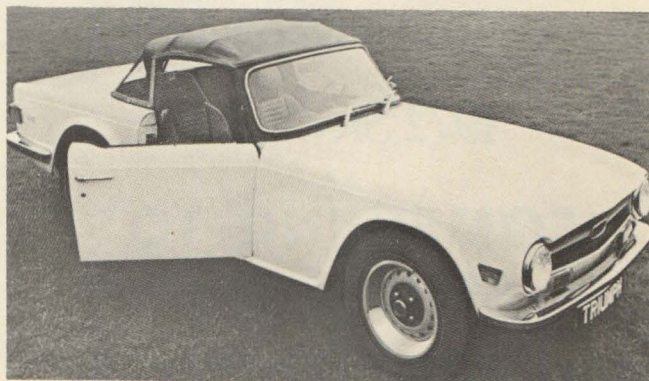
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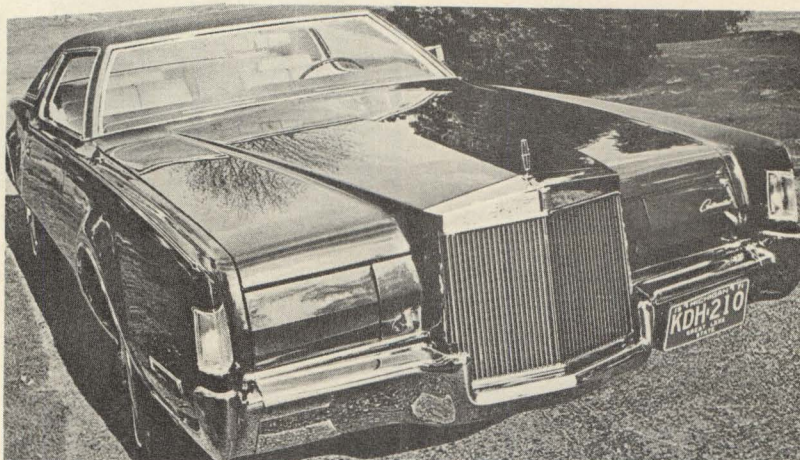
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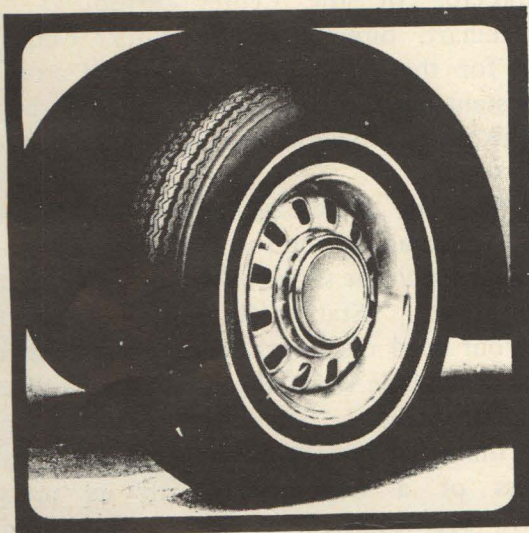
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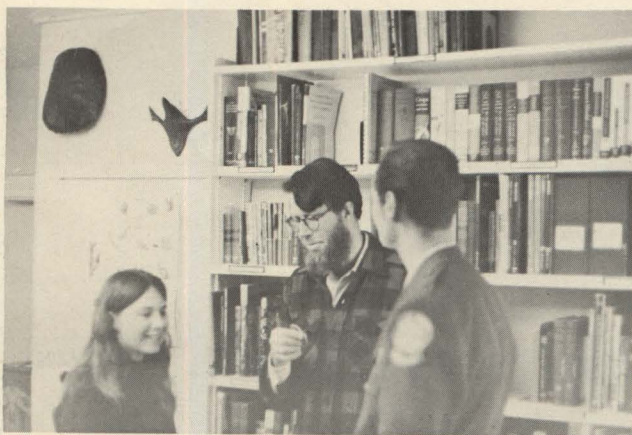


(AUTUMN cont. from page 11)

Saturday of each month. Bottles, cans, and other used glass or metal containers may be brought at this time to the Center, where volunteers sort, truck, and help with the re-cycling in a variety of ways.

Another service provided by the Center is the Lester Thomas Memorial Library, named for the Center's founder and at present stocked with well over 1,000 volumes on nature, science, and ecology, which makes it the largest lending library on these subjects on the Eastern seaboard. The books may be borrowed by anyone, whether a county resident or not, willing to sign a card and keep them only one week. Wynne Epstein, a librarian who helped establish the collection and volunteers her services, is on duty two days a week.

While the library is a heavy contributor to the education which is the Center's chief *raison d'être*, there are many other services to education in the county and state. School classes often visit with their teachers to extend the science classroom. Bucks County teachers under the direction of Science Coordinator Ed Garlity may participate in science workshops here. A popular course in nature photography has just finished its second round and will begin a third in November. A photography contest, for which nearby camera shops donate prizes and help with the judging, is an annual event, likewise a fishing contest. Nature walks and talks each Sunday, many in conjunction with the Bucks County Audubon Society, films every Wednesday evening, and lectures every Tuesday evening, provide all ages from young children to adults with a wealth of interesting new skills and knowledge; and a newsletter available to anyone for 50 cents lists times and dates of all these events.



(l. to r.) Colleen Fonn, Dr. Dave Williams, former naturalist at the Center, and Chief Naturalist Folker in the Lester Thomas Memorial Library.

One of the exciting and innovative programs conceived at the Center with the goal of increasing children's awareness of life is the new Outdoor Expressive Experience, to be offered to elementary school and Scout groups. As winter comes on and many living things become dormant, classes will be taken into various parts of the area in small groups of 8 to 10 where, with a map and a bag for each child, they will explore on their own, and will be allowed to look at, listen to, touch, smell, or collect anything which interests them, from pine cones and berries to an animal skeleton or moth chrysalis. The collections will be brought back to the invitingly warm and cheerful main room of the Center building, where, gathered around the hearth, the children can ask questions about what they have found.

Another innovative program of the Center is the Braille trail dedicated last May 15th. With the cooperation of Boy Scout Troop 153 of Feasterville, who set up and constructed the trail; the Bucks County Association for the Blind, who offered technical advice and assistance; and Sears, Roebuck, and Co., who donated 1,000 feet of nylon rope, the naturalists have conceived and built a truly beautiful nature walk for the blind. Holding the rope in his right hand, the blind person is enabled to follow along the trail to each of a series of posts on which is mounted a large, three-dimensional number. The numbers refer to sections of a Braille book which he carries in his left hand and which tells him what to "look" for with his other senses at the site. A quotation from the book, written by Harry Volker, naturalist-director of the Center, organized by Matthew Treihart, director of the Bucks County Association for the Blind, and typed by Dorothy Hopick, assistant nurse of the Association, will show you what this unique experience could mean even to a sighted person.

"Station 6 — The immediate temperature change indicates that you are in the forest. . . . Station 7 — The smooth bark and the shape of the leaf indicate to you a maple tree. . . . Station 10 — At this station, reach over your head and feel the crabapple tree with its many small inedible fruits appearing in June after the blossoms in May. . . . After leaving this station, you should immediately feel the warmth of the sun or openness of a large field with its many characteristic sounds, crickets, cicadas (a loud, constant hum), song sparrows (a pattern of many short lively notes with a trill at the end)."

Who are the people who perform all these services — Mr. Volker and his staff? Twenty-six year old

(continued on page 30)



by Burt Chardak

The Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Co. used to give it away as premiums with the purchase of baking soda.

Now it is highly prized by collectors and its relative scarcity is sending pieces of shell and seaweed patterned majolica pottery way up.

Ellis E. Stern, of Coatesville, who along with his wife, have the largest collection of American Majolica in the country said the price has gone up at least three-fold over the last 10 years.

And by far the most sought after of the many patterns is the shell and seaweed. It is hand-painted in browns and greens with a lavender lining on such items as bowls and cups.

Just a few weeks ago, I sold such a bowl for \$65, and Mr. Ellis said that was a fair price. Just imagine, once it was given away!

Majolica on this side of the ocean is somewhat different than the pottery of the old world. It was developed in Italy in the 15th or 16th centuries.

The pottery itself is usually poor quality and a tin oxide was used to conceal the natural color of the pottery and give the artist a base for painted decoration.

With the stannic (tin) oxide, the colors remain fixed without blurring after the piece is fired.

Later, similar work was done in Spain and much of it was shipped to Italy from the island of Majorca in the 17th century. The word was corrupted to maiolica and then majolica.

Then, according to Mr. Ellis, European potters in later years brought the techniques to this country. Here instead of the tin oxide, lead oxide was used.

This produced a translucent effect instead of the

(continued on page 25)

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WISSAHICKON VIEWS



View of the right bank of the Wissahickon about one mile below the Valley Green Inn.

Art by Roger Clough

Photos by Alan Goldstein



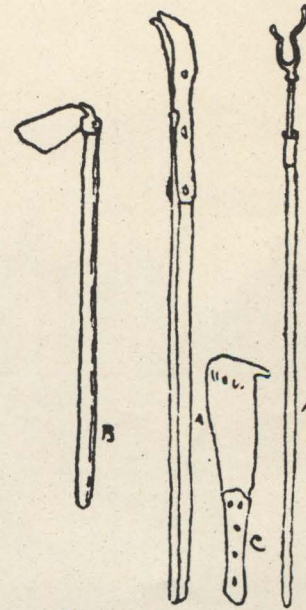
The Valley Green Inn, over a hundred years old, and still operating. This painting is in the permanent collection of LaSalle College.

(SWEETNIN' cont. from page 5)

juice ran down a little trough and into a bucket. The power to turn the mill was provided by a mule hitched to a long pole or sapling, which was attached at right angles to the top of the press. The mule walked around in a circle at the other end of the pole.

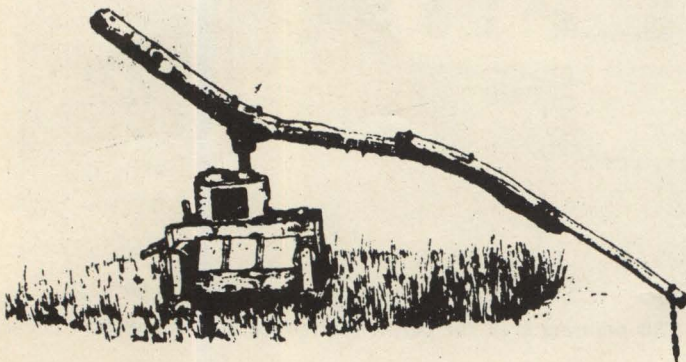
When the bucket was full, the man would shout, "Whoa", and the mule would stop in his weary tracks. The full bucket was dumped into the vat where the juice was boiling and an empty bucket was put in place. The crushed stalks were hauled away to be fed to the razor back hogs. A fresh pile of cane would be brought up, and at a "Geeup" from the operator the patient old mule would amble on his endless path.

There was no roof over the press, but the vat where the syrup was boiled had a shed roof mounted on four poles. The vat was an oblong metal tank, about eight by four feet, and quite shallow. It rested on a brick foundation, over a pit where a fire of oak or hickory logs was kept burning slowly. There was a chimney at one end and an opening at the other where the logs were shoved in. The vat itself was divided into several sections with a narrow gate on alternate sides. The juice was poured in at one end and flowed from one section to the rest as it cooked. In the last section the final boiling down was completed. When the syrup reached exactly the right consistency, it was drained out by a spigot, strained, cooled and poured into kegs. For retail consumption it was drawn off into earthen ware jugs which were



Harvesting tools:

- a. To strip the leaves
- b. Heavy hoe to cut bottom of cane
- c. To "top" the canes
- d. Remains of sugar cane mill near Fort Orange, Florida



EVAPORATOR

Henry Glassie, *Pattern in the Material Folk Culture of the Eastern United States* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1968), p. 108.

From the book *Little Old Mills* by Marion Rawson. Illus. by the author. Copyright, 1934, by E. P. Dutton & Co., Inc. Renewal, © 1962 by Jonathan N. Rawson. Published by E. P. Dutton & Co., Inc. and reproduced with their permission."

plugged with chunks of clean corn cob.

The thin, uncooked juice was a little cloudy from the bloom on the unpeeled stalks, but this soon rose to the top as it boiled, forming the same kind of scum you find on any kettle of jelly. This was skimmed off

(continued on page 31)

(ANTIQUE cont. from page 21)

opaque effect of the European pottery. Lead oxides were cheaper than the tin oxides and this probably was the main factor in the very competitive American market.

Several scores of factories attempted making the majolica in this country. Most of it was crude with flowers, fruits or animals on the front and a spongeware effect on the back.

Probably the most competent work came from the Griffin, Hill & Smith factory in Phoenixville. The factory was founded in 1867 and went through several hands until it was taken over in 1877 by Harry E. Griffin and another man whom he later bought out.

Griffin formed a new firm taking in as partners the superintendent, David Smith, and a man named Hill, the chief potter . . . thus, the name of Griffin, Smith & Hill. They made majolica in a number of patterns using the GSH (letters superimposed) as a monogram. They also adopted the name Etruscan, and this often appeared under the monogram.

However, sometimes the pottery was marked with only a catalogue code of letters and numbers.

Ellis said the factory burned down in 1890, and no trace of it now remains. However, at least in earlier years there was plenty of the pottery around.

Besides the shell and seaweed pattern, the Phoenixville firm designed a begonia leaf pattern, which came in various colors, green, pink and brown; green, tan and yellow; green and white, etc.

Then there was a bamboo design, cauliflower and the corn pattern. I bought a piece Labor Day at the Perkiomenville flea market. It's a pitcher in green with the yellow corn breaking through the husks, and you can feel each kernel. It cost me \$14, which is somewhat under today's market price.

Mr. Ellis and his wife started their collection 50 years ago. He said their respective mothers each left them several pieces. Through the years, they have collected several hundred pieces, including a complete set of the shell and seaweed. Asked how many pieces he now has, Mr. Ellis replied:

"You come over and count them."

However, he said pieces do come up at antique shops and at auctions. He said he regretted the prices were getting so high because it made it difficult for a person of average means to begin a significant collection.

Asked about reproductions, he said:

"They tried to make it several years in California. But it was crude and wouldn't fool anyone."

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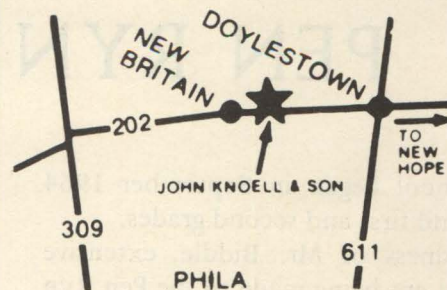
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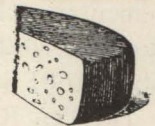
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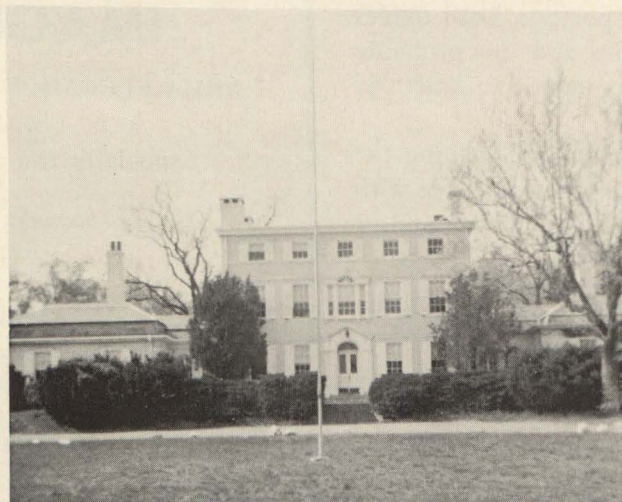
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PEN RYN SCHOOL

The Pen Ryn School began in September 1964 with a kindergarten and first and second grades.

Through the kindness of Mr. Biddle, extensive repairs have been and are being made to the Pen Ryn estate. The school has grown and is now a full elementary school with grades from pre-kindergarten through eighth. All classes are held at the Pen Ryn estate, 1601 State Road in Cornwells Heights.

The Pen Ryn estate is nearly two hundred years old and has a fascinating as well as varied background. Of all the old estates in the Philadelphia vicinity, none has more dignity and charm than Pen Ryn, once the seat of the Bickley family and now the home of the Pen Ryn School. The spacious mansion situated along the banks of the Delaware in Andalusia, is surrounded by old trees, wide lawns, and walled gardens. Adjoining the Charles Biddle estate, Pen Ryn is located on State Road about two miles above the Philadelphia county line.

At the time Pen Ryn was built by the Bickleys in 1774, Philadelphia was very young. Independence Hall had been built but a few years. No hospitals or theaters had been erected but there were several churches, a courthouse and a jail. The town of Andalusia did not exist, nor did the estate from which the town received its name.

Abraham Bickley, whose ancestry goes back to the Bickleys of Pen Ryn in the county of Cornwall in Great Britain, was the first of that family to settle in Philadelphia. The elder Abraham Bickley was twice married, his first wife being Elizabeth Gardiner and

the second, Elizabeth Richardson. His younger son, Abraham II, died of yellow fever in 1743, so Samuel seems to have been the builder of the oldest part of Pen Ryn.

The first floor of the original building (1774) contained two large rooms, separated by a wide hall with the open stairway from the large windows which are placed at each landing. The wooden pins, by which the boards of the staircase are dowelled together, can be clearly discerned by an observant visitor standing in the hallway.

To the left of the original hall, which is now back some distance from the entrance, is the dining room, which has fine paneling, wide window sills, and a fireplace flanked on each side by doored cupboards. Today this room is used by the School as a classroom.

Opposite the dining room is a room overlooking a small walled garden. In this room is a powdering closet with a hole in the door through which the master of Pen Ryn could thrust his head for powdering. His clothes were thus protected from the powder, but the servant stood inside the closet with the powder flying about him. The door remains today and the room serves as the School Lounge.

One of the second story rooms in the oldest part of this house is a large, cheerful room whose ceiling is hand-decorated with a circle of colorful cherubim, a charming decoration for a nursery ceiling. The School's first grade appropriately uses this room.

Abraham II enlarged the building by the addition of what is now the front portion of the house. Later,

he built an addition to the rear. The old front entrance now became a wide archway, well back in the hall.

A Palladian window is an interesting feature of the front portion of the house. This window, which is placed on the second floor level above the front entrance, is really a set of three windows, the center one being wider than the other two and curved at the top. The name Palladian is derived from the name of a sixteenth century Italian architect, Andrea Palladio, whose type of architecture was popular in colonial times.

Since Pen Ryn has been used as a school, the wide hall containing the Palladian window has been remodeled into a small cloak room which is probably the only cloak room in the state that can claim this Palladian feature.

The south parlor, one of the rooms added by Abraham III in 1793, communicates with the old dining room by a large doorway with great hinged doors. To the right of the entrance is the beautiful Psyche Room whose murals match the murals designed by David for the Joseph Bonaparte house on South Ninth Street in Philadelphia. The School uses this room for its main office.

On the lawn near the wing added in 1793 are three clumps of old boxwood which have withstood the ravages of time. To the right of the mansion near the carriage house is the "William Penn Tree", which was a young sapling at the time William Penn came to these shores.

Highwaymen were prevalent in the time of Abraham III, but consider the more stirring times of the first Abraham Bickley when there was danger lurking on the river as well as the highway. Today, when you look from the windows of The Pen Ryn School, the Delaware appears very peaceful, but in the early 1700's on this same water there were river pirates, tales of whose escapades frightened the children of early days. In the city of Philadelphia, some of the most dangerous pirates walked the streets quite openly, no one caring to accost them.

A tale often told in the neighborhood of Pen Ryn is that of Captain Edward Teach, better known as Blackbeard, the pirate, buried treasure on a little island off State Road, at the mouth of the Poquessing Creek. In fact, many people have dug at the designated spot, but no one has unearthed anything of interest. If Captain Teach did bury treasure there, it has been buried for two and a half centuries for the notorious buccaneer died in 1718.

The grandfather of Miss Cecilia Snyder, whose family has lived across from Pen Ryn for several

generations used to tell her of a lady in black who appeared more than once in the woods in the vicinity of the Bickley tomb. Once she suddenly appeared a few feet from a group of boys playing near the road. They chased her with snow balls, she jumped over a wall, ran around the tomb three times, and disappeared.

She has been known to appear at Halloween, lithe and willowy, in her trailing gown of black velvet. Who is she, this wraith that walks under age old trees, through the walled garden, follows the path along the river, but never ventures too near the stately old mansion? Could she be the bride of that other ghost of long ago, the Robert Bickley whose unfortunate marriage was the cause of a fearful quarrel between father and son? Is that why the lady in black never ventures too near the house?

Since he had no heirs, Abraham IV, following an English custom, offered to leave Pen Ryn to his cousin, Lloyd Wharton, providing Mr. Wharton hyphenate the name Bickley to his own surname. Mr. Wharton, being justifiably proud of his own name, hesitated to do this. However, he finally agreed to become Lloyd Wharton-Bickley and next master of Pen Ryn.

After his death, Pen Ryn became the property of his son, Robert Wharton-Bickley. From Robert, the estate passed to his cousin, Lucy Wharton Drexel (Mrs. Joseph) who willed it to her daughter, Josephine Drexel Henry. Mrs. Henry was the last owner to use Pen Ryn as a residence.

After many years Josephine Drexel Henry left Pen Ryn to live in Paris and New York. The property was sold to Mr. Charles Biddle whose beautiful home, Andalusia, adjoins the Pen Ryn estate.

Through the generosity of Mr. Biddle, the Pen Ryn mansion and ten acres of land were deeded to All Saints Episcopal Church in 1946. That autumn, grades one to eight of the All Saints Episcopal School moved to the spacious grounds of the estate.

That school was founded by Harriet Massey as "Torresdale House" in 1912, at which time it consisted of primary grades and a Montessori kindergarten.

In 1963, All Saints Church, Torresdale, decided to discontinue the "grades", keeping only the kindergarten and moved these to the church. And this is where our story began.

Pen Ryn is a fascinating blend of days gone by, present days, and days to come. Life has been exciting and varied at Pen Ryn, and it will continue to be so.



BETWEEN FRIENDS

by Sheila Martin



October — the month when my idea of beauty is a ride through the colorful foliage in Bucks County. This is a nice month, not too cold, not too hot but just right as Goldilocks would say. The birthstone for October is the opal, considered unlucky or sinister by some but admired by most for its unusual color.

* * *

Don't miss the Third Annual Antiques Auction and Art Exhibit for the benefit of the Washington Crossing Foundation. It will be held on Saturday, October 2 from 10 to 4 and includes an Alfresco Art

Exhibit outdoors, a professional artist exhibit under the "Bicentent", an antiques auction under the direction of George Michael, well known author and TV series host. Many other booths and attractions will make this a most enjoyable event.

* * *

The Bucks County Community Center, 1400 Anderson Ave., Bristol, is seeking women volunteers to assist with the various programs conducted during the Fall through Spring months.

Two women with the ability to handle children are needed to work in the morning nursery on Tuesdays and/or Thursdays, 9 to 11:30 A.M. Their duties will be to teach numbers, colors, organization, to small, pre-school children.

Two women with sewing ability are needed to teach sewing classes on Mondays and/or Wednesdays. The sewing classes include lessons on how to sew, read patterns, cut material, follow instructions, and operate a sewing machine.

One woman is needed to assist in conducting the Health Clinic which is held the first Wednesday of every month. Responsibilities include making appointments and maintaining a simple follow-up appointment record.

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Anyone interested in volunteering for any of these jobs should contact Harold Williams, director of the Center by calling 788-6080 or 788-5767.

* * *

George Pleasants, General Manager of WBUX Radio, Doylestown, announced that the station joined the Mutual Broadcasting System on September 1, 1971.

Pleasants stated that WBUX, located at 1570 on the A.M. dial, will carry the full spectrum of Mutual Network programs, which include News on the Half-hour daily, plus such features as Notre Dome Football, Bill Stern on Sports, Stock Market reports, sports programs, and special events such as space shots and presidential news conferences.

In making the announcement, Pleasants noted that WBUX has been serving the residents in Bucks and Eastern Montgomery Counties of Pennsylvania, and Hunterdon County, New Jersey, for over 23 years, but this is the first time the station has become affiliated with a national Network.

* * *

The Bucks County Parks and Recreation Board has announced suspension of fees to visit the Stover

House in Erwinna and the Stover-Myers Mill in Tinicum Township.

In an effort to provide the experience of visiting these historic sites to all Bucks Countians, the Board decided on a trial period of suspending the charging of fees and merely asking for a voluntary donation from visitors. Both sites are open 1 to 5 P.M. on weekends and holidays, through October. Guides are on duty at the Mill while members of the Stover House Committee of the Tinicum Civic Association serve as hostesses at the Stover House.

* * *

Central Bucks residents who are 65 years old and over are urged to apply for a "Gold Card" which will entitle them to free admission to athletic and cultural events in all CB secondary schools. Gold Card holders also are exempted from paying tuition for Adult Evening School courses.

Cards are available at no charge through the district's Community Relations Office located in the Administration Center, 315 West State Street, Doylestown.

Residents must present some proof of their age when first applying for a "Gold Card." Each year after that the card is automatically renewed.

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(AUTUMN cont. from page 20)

Harry Volker has been at the Center four years, coming here from Washington's Crossing Park, where he was a naturalist for the New Jersey Park System. Before that he taught conservation for Rutgers University Extension Service, and is a graduate of Central College in Iowa. He is married, has one child, and lives in nearby Feasterville. His enthusiasm and dedication to his work are immediately apparent when he works with a group of children, with whom he is at once no-nonsense and full of fun — setting serious limits and rules with regard to the care of the living things in the center, but obviously taking pleasure in both the children and his work.

Assistant naturalist Julian Boryszewski works the year round at the Center, but on a per-diem basis as he finishes his last semester in science at Bucks County Community College. Julian is in charge of the naturalist-in-training program, is most knowledgeable about the Center and its activities, and is apparently truly *en rapport* with both nature and young people.

Other naturalists are Wayne Aaronson, assistant instructor for the NIT program; Bruce Barford, on project transition for the U. S. Navy since last May; and Colleen Fonn, a senior at Council Rock High School who went on the payroll in the summer of 1971 after graduating from the NIT program. An attractive dark blonde with a shy smile and obvious pride in her naturalist insignia, Colleen hopes to major in outdoor education in college.

The services of these people are funded by the Bucks County Department of Parks and Recreation, but do not begin to cover all the work done at the Center, which could not be carried on without its many volunteers. Besides the organizations and groups previously mentioned, there are several dozen adults who help with campfires, lead student groups, donate materials, make displays, give talks, show films, lead field trips, or work in the library. If you would like to be one of them, the staff would gladly discuss its needs with you.

When you arrive at the Center you will find a large parking lot well marked with rustic signs and dominated by a tall flag pole on which fly not only the stars and stripes but the green and white striped flag of combined natural science and ecology organizations devised for Earth Day. As you walk the more than a mile of trails, you will be thrilled by the scarlet of the maples, the gold of white ash, hickory, aspen, willow, and tulip poplar, the velvety purplish-brown of the black oak, the deep green of hemlocks and pines. Purple loosestrife, white Queen Anne's lace, blue lupins, and yellow black-eyed



Girl Scouts dedicating a nature trail

Susans are now only interesting seedheads; but the goldenrod, asters, and ironweed still color the field, the milkweed's grotesque pods are beginning to burst, and the dogwood's red berries are attracting all the seed-eaters who stay for the winter — woodpeckers, cardinals, mockingbirds, bluejays, and many kinds of sparrows, as well as the nuthatches and chickadees. On the lake you catch glimpses of ruddy ducks, shovellers, bufflehead, coots, swans, blue and green teal, and even some Canada geese, although the great blue herons have gone. Listen and you may hear the melting notes of the white-throated sparrow or even the last few whirring chirps of the katydid.

The most noticeable landmark as you complete your walk on this beautiful autumn day is a large 200-year-old Norway maple with a trunk diameter of over four feet, which provides much of the shade for the nature center building, and which is now glorious with gold shading to orange and bronze. The building itself is a comfortable old farmhouse sold with all its outbuildings to the County by the Franklin family and obtained for the Center by Lester Thomas and other interested citizens. This building houses the library, offices, meeting rooms, shell, rock, and other collections, and many exciting exhibits.

Have you ever wished that someone could cut a hole in a beehive and put in a glass window so that you could watch the incredible social organization of these miraculous little honey-makers? You will find it at the Bucks County Outdoor Education Center, along with such added attractions as an enclosed bog terrarium containing pitcher plants, miniature cedars, cranberry bushes, and many mosses. To enhance your autumn pilgrimage you will find the many activities touched on in this article, the personable Mr. Volker and his staff to answer your questions, and, above all, a lovely corner of the world where peace and tranquility are still realities.

(RUSS cont. from page 15)

passenger, C. L. Custer of Philadelphia were killed. Injured were Edward McCourt, engineer, Doylestown; William Stever, engine wiper, Doylestown; H. J. Doland, brakeman, Doylestown; J. Swartley, passenger, Chalfont; and a number of others. The body of Rodrock was rescued from beneath the boiler of the engine. It was believed that he was drowned by the flood of water from the tank and was dead when taken out. A special train was sent out from Philadelphia to convey the wounded to hospitals while doctors were rushed to the scene from Lansdale, North Wales, Ambler and Glenside.

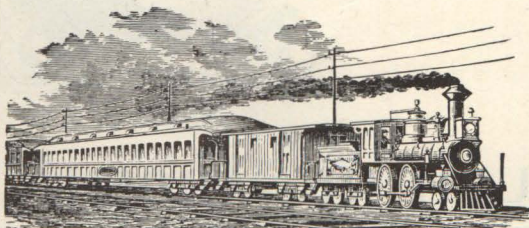
Dr. Seese, our family doctor in Lansdale, with two other Lansdale physicians went down to the wreck in a caboose attached to a freight engine.

The wreckers were acquainted with the railroad it was generally conceded. One of the theories at the time was that the wreckers had planned to waylay the Black Diamond Express which passed Gwynedd several minutes late.

The scene in the ill-fated car just previous to the wreck was one of merriment. Most of the passengers had spent the day at the 25th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Duffield near Colmar. The people were laughing and discussing the pleasant scenes of the day, when sudden disaster came upon them.

William Stever, Doylestown engine wiper, hurled in the wreck, escaped death by a close margin in an accident occurring on his way to the Jewish Hospital in Philadelphia. While lying on a stretcher in the ambulance awaiting at Tabor station, the two horses were scared and ran away. Stever, showing remarkable pluck, saved his life by dragging himself to the front of the ambulance and bringing the runaway horses and vehicle to a stop.

I was eight years old at the time of the wreck and what's more, the Dr. Seese who was the first physician to arrive at the scene, was the "delivery man" when this scribe was born. And what's more, the story of the wreck in a Nov. 23, 1903 issue of a Doylestown newspaper was written by my father, the late A. K. Thomas who was then editor, manager and treasurer of The Intelligencer, Doylestown.



(SWEETNIN' cont. from page 24)

with a long handled wooden paddle, and by the time it was done the rich golden syrup was as clear as crystal. As it evaporated in the cooking it sent off clouds of aromatic vapor which could be smelled a fur piece down the pike.

Mr. Brown always offered us tin cups of the raw juice, which was considered a delicacy, but I preferred to chew my own. There was something about getting the juice from the stalk that took away the over sweetness.

At the end of the day's run when the tank was emptied and cleaned and the fire allowed to die down, the old mule was led off to the barn to a well earned supper and rest. We climbed into the surrey with our still warm jugs of fresh syrup and a generous gift of sugar cane from Mr. Brown, and drove home to a supper of pancakes and molasses.

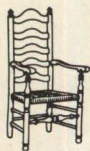
The next rainy day we would have a candy pull. This was a wonderful but messy event. The molasses with a dash of baking soda and vinegar, and a generous chunk of butter were boiled down to just the right consistency. Then it was beaten "until the arm dropped off". When it had cooled on buttered plates we started pulling it. We managed to get it into our hair, all over our faces (just tasting to see if it was ready yet). We often dropped it on the floor. Finally when it was as stiff and white as we could get it, it was twisted into ropes and cut into "kisses" with a little candy hatchet. We proudly carried mother a sample, and cook scrubbed the kitchen, and we were hustled off to hot baths.

One summer we went to Cape Cod and stopped over in Boston at the Parker House on the way. I was served maple syrup with my breakfast pancakes. I had never tasted it before, and I didn't like it. I asked for molasses, instead. The waiter was horrified, but reluctantly brought me some of the black strap which they used in making Boston baked beans. It is also used in curing pipe and chewing tobacco. I think it is made from sorghum, a poor relation of sugar cane. My heart went out in pity to the poor benighted New Englanders who didn't even know what proper molasses was. No wonder they preferred maple syrup. After having made such a fuss I was ashamed not to eat it. So I choked it down under the disdainful eye of the waiter.

In 1915 we left Mississippi, and I haven't seen any sugar cane or real molasses since. I wonder how they make it in this mechanized age? And if lucky little children still chew sugar cane, and crumble biscuits in their plates to sop up the last drop of long sweetnin'.

Hendrixson

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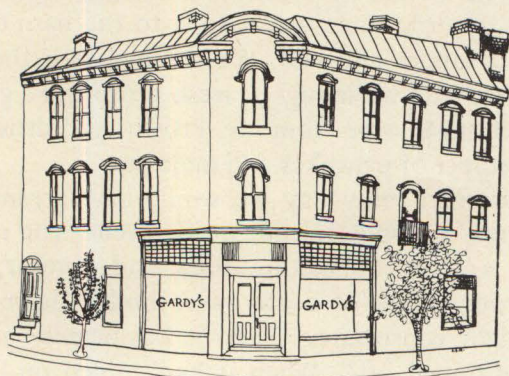


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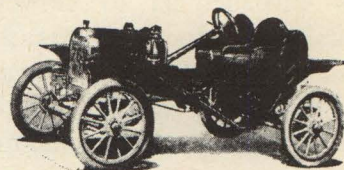
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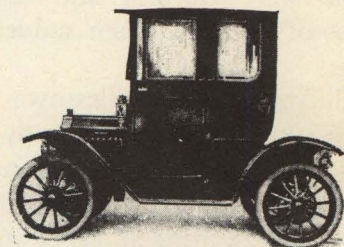
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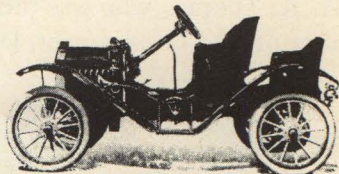
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BOOKS IN REVIEW



GROWN UP ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE, by Mary Price Lee, Exposition Press, New York. 1971. 48 pp. \$4.00.

This delightful book is written for children by a grown-up, a very special grown-up, Mary Price Lee. This mother of three children writes with a fine sense of understanding to the children from ages 8 to 12 who are ready and eager for relevant (grown up) activities.

Without coyness or condescension, the author anticipates the questions and outlines the procedures to carry out these activities. Some of them are a lending library, a clothesline art exhibit, a fair, a newspaper, and a junior Olympics.

Skillfully drawn illustrations throughout the book not only help in the explanations but lend interest to the text. Holder of a M.S. degree in Education from the University of Pennsylvania, Mrs. Lee's training and experience insure that the activities offered will give children many hours of fun plus constructive learning. *Panorama* readers have enjoyed Contributing Editor Mary Price Lee's fine articles — now they and their children have an opportunity to read her first book.

S.M.

REMEMBER TELEVISION, by Ron Lackmann. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York. 1971. 192 pp. \$7.95.

As a child of the thirties I still look upon television as a modern wonder. I remain so amazed by the miracle of seeing pictures in my living room that I forget that, even in its commercial form, the "modern miracle" is almost 25 years old. Ron Lackmann, however, has forced me to face the reality of the television age.

Remember Television covers the period from 1947 to 1958 and, on a year to year basis, presents pictures and brief discussions of some of the favorite shows and performers. Who remembers "Lucky Pup" and "Racket Squad?" some of the old timers are still around, but you might have some difficulty recollecting a thin Jackie Gleason or a Phil Silvers with hair.

There are some indications that the nostalgia market is being worked to death, but Ron Lackmann can plead "not guilty" of the murder. I have enjoyed reading the book over and over again. In fact, every time I sat down at the typewriter to write a review, I became engrossed that the review was postponed until another day. I think that *Remember Television* will have a similar effect on everyone else. H.W.B

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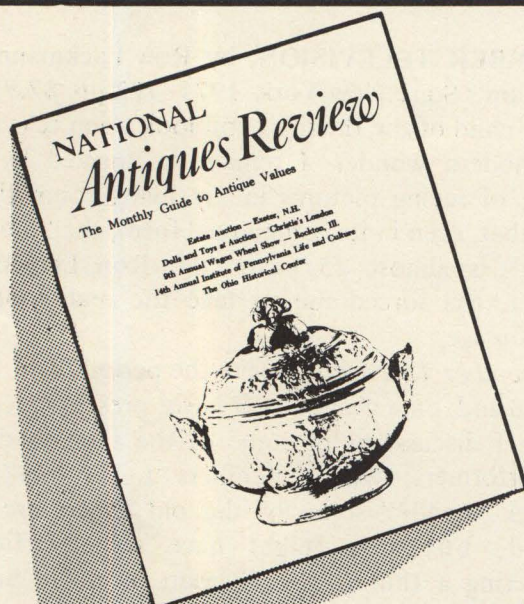
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(DOCUMENT cont. from page 7)

boards, each edge grooved and locked together in applying. Beautiful hand-wrought nails were used. This wing was never exposed to weather, and the exterior remains sheathed by unpainted wooden boards in today's restoration. A balcony, piercing the pent roof, is reminiscent of 17th century English houses.

Visitors entering the log house will see it as originally built. However, a short end has been cut off the large fireplace in the living room in order to make an entrance into the second section. One large Family Room, or Chamber, comprised the entire upper floor of the new wing, which also has a Swedish corner fireplace.

Because of sloping ground, this "framed" section was built partly into the bank, providing a lower level. Walls of this lower floor are of stone and consist of one room only — a kitchen with large cooking fireplace.

Queried concerning the historical significance of the Moon-Williamson House, the architect, Mr. Brumbaugh, stated: "We have searched for Swedish 17th century Delaware Valley log houses of comparable quality in vain. Two are still standing, both re-creations with many changes and no scholarly restoration.

"We feel that the present work results in a unique and valuable record, largely original, of the region's first types of construction . . . a priceless find."

In addition to this historic opening, the Fallsington Day program will offer Open House hospitality throughout the village. Special emphasis this year will be given to demonstrations of Colonial crafts, many of them in homes not previously open to the public. Many of the traditional activities will be retained, such as the Colonial Musket Drill, put on by a group of history buffs in authentic Revolutionary costume, and the serving of hot mulled cider in the Stagecoach Tavern.

Especially for children will be a series of puppet shows in the 18th century manner, and Nanny's Nursery . . . a section of the Fair where small children can be left and entertained, while parents visit the more adult exhibits. Luncheon will be served on the terrace of the William Penn Community Center, and an all-day snack bar will be in operation behind the Tavern.

Although Fallsington Day is for fun, it also provides the funds for the restoration program of Historic Fallsington . . . a neat combination of enjoyment in, and support for, this unique 18th century village.



COLLECTOR'S ITEMS

Back copies of *Panorama* are available for \$.50 each, post paid. The number is limited. A wealth of interesting historical articles, old pictures of Bucks County, and other articles are contained in each issue.

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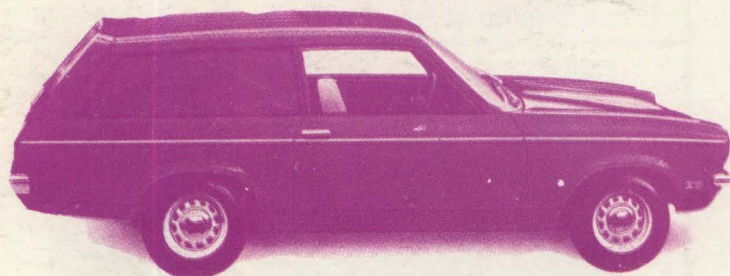
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